

# <u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

19 October 2010

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## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION

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# **Summary**

This paper presents a draft response from the AONB Partnership to the current government consultation on a new Natural Environment White Paper.

#### Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to comment on and endorse the draft response.

### **Background**

1. Protecting the environment and enhancing biodiversity is one of Defra's top 3 priorities, as outlined in the Department's Structural Reform Plan. A key commitment under this priority is the publication of a White Paper on the natural environment by spring 2011. On 26 July 2010 Defra published a discussion paper "An invitation to shape the Nature of England", inviting comments and submissions by 30 October 2010. The consultation summary document and a draft AONB Partnership response are appended below.

#### **List of Background Papers**

Natural environment: an invitation to shape the nature of England, available at <a href="http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/our-responsibilities/nat-environment/">http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/our-responsibilities/nat-environment/</a>

### **Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

### **Environmental Appraisal**

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

#### Risk Management Appraisal

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

### Community / Consultations Appraisal

The content of this paper has not been subject to any prior consultation.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 An invitation to shape the Nature of England - Discussion Document Summary

Appendix 2 Draft AONB Partnership response to Natural Environment White Paper consultation